



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE FRED CAMILLO
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIRST DISTRICT

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RANKING MEMBER
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

MEMBER
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Testimony

In Support of H.B. No. 5271

An Act Concerning The Siting Council
Energy and Technology Committee

March 1, 2012

Dear Senators Fonfara and Witkos, Representatives Nardello and Hoydick and Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

I am here today to request your consideration of H.B. 5271 An Act Concerning The Siting Council that asks that cell towers not be sited within 250 feet of schools.

Proponents and supporters of this bill are well aware of the 1996 Telecommunications Act and the Connecticut Siting Council. Unfortunately, the 1996 Telecommunication Act does not take into account any health factors in the location of cell towers. While I personally find this way of thinking misguided and wrong, I do realize that it will have to be dealt with on the federal level.

In regard to the latter, the CT Siting Council was first established in 1972 and later expanded to deal with among other things, the placement of cell towers. This legislature created it, and it can disband it, or limit its powers. This bill doesn't address that, it only seeks to put added focus on the safety of children, students, and adults who work in schools and day care centers first when siting cell towers in the vicinity of these venues.

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We don't have clear scientific evidence to substantiate nor deny the health risks caused by radiation emitted from these structures. However, please keep in mind that decades ago we also didn't have the data or evidence when we were told the same thing by the tobacco industry.

I am quite conservative on most issues before this legislature. This issue, however, is one which makes me subscribe to the old adage about being safe rather than sorry. No one can legitimately and reasonably fault this committee or the state legislature for erring on the side of caution. Waiting 20 years for a study to be published linking illness to these cell towers is too much of a risk to take at this time, or at any time.

H.B. 5271, An Act Concerning The Siting Council is a reasonable and responsible compromise at this time with all the competing views that we have on cell towers and on the radiation that is emitted. I urge you to favorably pass this bill out of committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Fred Camillo". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Fred Camillo
State Representative